(d) and (e). As per available information, the sanctioned National Highway projects are generally progressing satisfactorily. However, the construction of Ahmedabad-Vadodara National Expressway sanctioned in 1986-87 has got relatively delayed due to contractual problems which have been resolved substantially since.

Reservation in Promotion to SCs/STs Employees in Syndicate Bank.

256. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has directed the Syndicate Bank to provide reservation in promotion to the employees belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in all categories from 1978 onwards;

(b) if so, whether the Syndicate Bank has implemented it; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India vide its Judgement dated 10.8.1990 in W.P. No. 847/87 read with its order dated 1.4.91 in Review Petition Nos 592 and 608 of 1990, has directed Syndicate Bank inter-alia to provide reservations for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes w.e.f. 1.1.1978 in promotions within its officers' cadre.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Irregularities in Rural Banks in U.P.

257. SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether irregularities have been detected in some branches of rural banks in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any inquiry committee has been constituted in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d). National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has reported that no serious irregularities have been detected in the Regional Rural Banks functioning in the State of Uttar Pradesh. However, the Regional Rural Banks in general suffer from financial weaknesses due to their financing being confined largely to the target group, the non-recovery of dues etc. The complaints regarding functioning of any individual RRB as and when received are examined and the concerned authorities are advised for taking suitable remedial measures.

[*English*]

Privatisation of Financial Institutions

258. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for privatisation of financial institutions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) Government is not currently considering any proposal for privatisation of financial institutions.

(b) Does not arise.